

CAPSULE SUMMARY - ALLEN BARN 'B' (CT-1043)

Associated with a large number of buildings at Spider Hall farm, this barn dates to the period c. 1860-1880. Measuring 36 x 20 with a transverse axis plan, the barn is oriented on a north-south axis. An original shed is located on the west side and an addition to the south. Two interesting architectural features are evident in this barn. They include tightly fit, wide plank, vertical siding on the south wall of the barn, and the presence of an elevated cross sill.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Allen Barn B

### 2. Location

street &amp; number 3915 Hallowing Pt. Rd. \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Barstow \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district

state MD county Calvert

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: storage

### 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. Edward Allen

Spider Hall Farm

street &amp; number 3915 Hallowing Pt. Rd. telephone no.: 535-5980

city, town Barstow state and zip code MD 20610

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse liber JLB 129

street &amp; number Main Street (MD 765) folio 31

city, town Prince Frederick state MD

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date DEPT. OF PLANNING &amp; ZONING \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

pository for survey records COURT HOUSE  
PRINCE FREDERICK, MD. 20678

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. CT-1043

### Condition

☐ excellent

☐ good

☒ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered

☒ altered

### Check one

☐ original site

☐ moved

date of move

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.  
See Attachment.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. CT-1043

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support. See Attachment.



## 7. DESCRIPTION CT-1043

There are a total of four barns on Spider Hall farm. The barn at the bottom of the hill is the oldest structure in the complex. Allen barn B is on the south side of the farm road, to the east of Allen barn A. The other barns are also along the same farm road on either side of the hill. As one ascends the hill towards the nineteenth-century farm house, the barns become more recent in date. Allen barn B is located uphill from Allen Barn A. It measures thirty-six by twenty feet and has a transverse axis plan. The timbers are circular sawn and the nails are fully mature machine-cut. The barn has two sheds, the one to the west is original, the one to the south is an addition.

The barn contains nine rooms and is divided into structural bays each eight feet wide with one four foot wide doorway. There are doors centered along each wall of the barn. The interior south and west doors have been removed, but pintel evidence remains. The doors into the sheds are also centered along the shed walls. Brick piers and large unmortared field stones support the heavy timber frame of the structure. Posts are of medium weight, and circular sawn. They are joined to the plate by mortise and tenon joints with trunnels. The barn has no cross sill but rather a upbraces extend from the doorpost to a large timber eight feet above ground. Down braces are circular sawn with machine-cut nails. Horizontal nailing rails are circular sawn.

Allen barn A has vertical siding, and two hinged ventilation doors eight feet apart. There remains some early siding on the southern gable end. This early siding has tightly fit wide boards (eighteen inches to two feet wide) with no possibility of any air passage between. No evidence of horizontal siding. The roof rafters are on four foot centers and rest on a flat false plate. The top plate is hewn. There are no windbraces to support the roof, but there are three collars. Metal roofing has replaced the original shingle roof. The shingle nailers are still in place. Tier poles are circular sawn, and nailed with fully mature machine-cut nails. They are separated by three and one half feet vertical distance. Peeled logs seven inches in diameter run down the central axis. Two hogsheads, one of which is complete, remain.

The thirteen foot wide western shed is constructed of rafters half-lapped on the exterior faces of the posts. The bays are seven feet with the exception of a nine-foot wide double doorway. The earth-fast posts are now supported by poured concrete. The west shed has the same size and type of timbers as the barn. There is no evidence of siding on the western side of the barn. It has some hinged ventilation doors. It originally had a wooden shingle roof, that has since been replaced by metal.

The fourteen foot wide south shed addition is constructed of circular sawn timbers and wire nails. Earth-fast posts are supported on poured concrete, and separated into six foot wide

7. DESCRIPTION CT-1043

bays, with the exception of a nine-foot wide doorway. It has vertical wall siding with occasional hinged ventilation doors. The metal roof replaces the original shingle roof. All timbers are circular sawn and have wire nails.

#### 8. SIGNIFICANCE CT-1043

This barn is significant representative of the period of tobacco barn construction from 1860-1880, when circular sawn lumber and fully mature machine cut were combined. Of special architectural interest is the remaining tightly fit wide siding on the south wall of the barn. This type of siding has been previously interpreted as indicative of flue-curing, but this seems unlikely in this structure since the poles that run down the central axis appear contemporary with the building and no other evidence of flue-curing is seen.

This barn also yields information regarding agricultural history in Southern Maryland. In February 1990, a tobacco barn survey was initiated in order to study the tobacco barns of Calvert County. Until fairly recently, tobacco was the most important farm crop of the county. More acreage was devoted to its cultivation than for both of the next most extensive farm products (corn and wheat). The barns and stripping houses related to this "Tobacco Culture" are widely recognized as the most common element on the rural landscape. These structures are also the most threatened, as the market for tobacco declines. They seem to have, at present, only limited capabilities for re-use. Many barns and stripping houses now stand empty. The purpose of this survey has been to gather information and document a wide sample of these structures before they disappear from the landscape.

Historic period/theme(s): 1860-Present, Agriculture, Tobacco  
Geographic Organization: Western shore Chesapeake Bay Calvert  
Cty MD

Chronological/Development Period: 1860-Present

Resource Type(s): Tobacco Barn

The barn has undergone several significant changes. The south shed was added after 1890 (circular sawn lumber and wire nails). Additional evidence is the remains of siding on the south wall of the barn, and the door on the south wall. The shingle roof that once covered the entire structure has been replaced by metal. The fact that the south shed had a shingle roof originally makes it likely that it was built before 1930.



CT-1043

Potts Pt

HUNTING

Mill

(PRINCE FREDERICK)  
5661 II SE

STOAKLEY 1.5 MI.

32°30"

4266

4265

CK (JUNC. MD. 2) 3.2 MI.

CT-1043  
ARSTOW 1.1 MI.  
'PRINCE FRED

4763000m N.

Leitch Wharf

ce Pt

gue

Buena Vista

Caney

Schoolhouse

Branch

Creek

TOLL BRIDGE  
Cable Area

Hallow

USGS TOPOGRAPHIC, BENEDICT 7.5 " QUADRANGLE, 1:24,000, 1974

Creek



ET-1043 Allen Barn 'B'

Prince Frederick

Tony E. Williamson

Myth

March, 1990